

# Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



PO Box 5094  
Wilmington, DE 19808

## Vox Humana

dtos1@verizon.net  
www.dtoskimball.org

Volume 51 Number 4

The Official DTOS Newsletter

April/May 2021



Mark Herman is one of America's busiest theatre organists, performing over 30 concerts and silent film presentations each year across the US and abroad. In 2012, he was named the American Theatre Organ Society's Organist of the Year and is the youngest person ever to receive the prestigious honor. Previously, he was overall winner of the Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition in 2004.

Mark has been featured on several episodes of American Public Media's Pipedreams program, and has performed for countless conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society, American Guild of Organists, and Organ Historical Society. On the international stage, he has toured in Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Additionally, his arrangements and performances have been heard both on television and in motion pictures. In 2019, he was honored to be featured alongside the Los Angeles Philharmonic for a rare organ solo cameo.

**Mark Herman  
Virtual Concert  
May 1, 2021  
7:00pm**

**The Mark Herman concert is a virtual concert and is available only on YouTube.**

**The Dickinson Theatre is NOT open.**

The next concert will also be **Virtual**.

**The June 12 virtual concert will be postponed to June 26. The artist will be Ken Double with Skip Stine (trumpet).**

**Mark Herman, continued**

As a film accompanist and scorer, Mark has developed a reputation for dramatic period-authentic film scores with presentations that not only resonate with but captivate modern audiences. He is especially regarded for his scores for the films of Harold Lloyd and Buster Keaton. In 2019, he was commissioned to compose and record two new scores for The Criterion Collection's latest Harold Lloyd Blu-ray release.

He studied theatre organ with the late John Ferguson of Indianapolis, who was recognized worldwide for his skills teaching the art of the theatre organ. His classical piano studies were with Christine Freeman of Fort Wayne, Indiana. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts/Management from DePaul University in Chicago.

He currently resides in Los Angeles, where he is President and Tonal Director of the Los Angeles Organ Company. He is in demand as an organ consultant, as well as a voicing specialist and tonal consultant for Allen Organs and is proud to be an Allen Artist, showcasing new Allen Organs in the US and beyond. He oversees the care of several notable theatre pipe organs and consults on instruments nationally.



## Review of Nathan Avakian Virtual Concert by Ron Stonehouse

On this evening we welcome Nathan for his 4th performance at Dickinson and this will be the 4th time I have enjoyed reviewing this exceptionally talented young man. He is noted for performing with prerecorded accompaniment that he created himself. What you hear is all Nathan Avakian, including all the musical arrangements. I contacted Nathan before the concert, not the first time he has made my job easier, and as promised, the concert running order was in my hands within 3 hours

separate piano benches on the stage at a respectable distance of course.

Nathan softens the mood with the beautiful **The Violettes** from 1876 and a French pianist, conductor and composer Emile Waldteufel known for his numerous popular salon pieces. That is instrumental music (usually for the piano) of a light pleasing and often sentimental character suitable for the drawing rooms rather than the concert hall. Nathan coaxed some lovely sounds from our Kimball on this one.

The next arrangement of **We Are Done** assured us it was rock. Written by twin brothers, Benji and Joel Madden, founding members of the rock band Good Charlotte. On their own in June 2014 released it as a single and in September on the album "Greetings from California".

The next piece was an emotional pop ballad by Randy Newman from "Toy Story 2". The song, **When She Loved Me**, was recorded by Sarah McLachlan and won a Grammy Award for "Best Song Written for a Motion Picture, Television or Other Visual Medium". It has since earned a reputation as one of the saddest sequences in both Pixars and Disney films as well as one of the saddest film songs ever written. In my notes while listening to the music, I wrote "nice liturgical sounds even almost angelic" and in the past Nathan has said it was "his favorite from the movie".

For great contrast, great arrangement, and great foot work we are next presented with **Bumble Boogie**. This is Jack Fina's popular 1946 hit and is based on Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumble Bee" for his opera "The Tale of Tsar Saltan" composed in 1899-1900.

A medley of Henry Mancini and Francis Lai music follows with the title Mancini Collection, even though Lai was the only composer of one. I will let you guess which one. The pieces included: **Theme from "Newhart", March of the Cue Balls, Days of Wine and Roses, Baby Elephant Walk, Theme from "Love Story", Dear Heart, Charade, Pink Panther Theme and Moon River.**

For the first time this evening we see and hear Nathan talk to us from the organ console and announced that his twin brother will join him on the stage. The selection was **Black and White Rag** by George Botsford. The 1908

continued on page 3



of show time.

Without any introduction, the concert began immediately after the countdown clock ended and we are witness to Nathan's fancy hot pink and black patent leather shoes dancing across the Kimball's pedal board to the notes of **Uptown Funk** followed by one of my favorite views of the organist and organ rising from the pit as seen from the rear of the organ. The music was released as a single in 2014 with featured artist Bruno Mars and included on the album "Uptown Special" in 2015. It is one of the most viewed You Tube videos. Song writers/producers of this song were many and included Mark Ronson, Bruno Mars, Jeff Bhasker, Philip Lawrence, Devon Gallospy, and Nicholaus Williams. A great first selection to set the stage for tonight!

David Ruth, our President / Chairman, introduced and gave a brief interview with Nathan as each sat on

## Nathan Avakian Review, continued

composition was recorded widely for both the phonograph and player piano. As noted in a 1910 clipping in the "Music Trade Review", "George Botsford is probably best known as a composer of the more difficult syncopated or ragtime instrumental successes." It is the 3rd ragtime composition to sell over one million copies of sheet music. Now if you missed the performance tonight, you should go to YouTube and check it out. It was one of the best pieces of editing I have seen in a long time. After this, we had a couple of minutes of intermission.

Returning, we are back with Nathan and David Ruth on the opposite set of piano benches for another brief interview, after which Nathan plays **Toxic Toccata**, which is two pieces blended that would seem they were written for him to play. The first part "Toxic" is from a Britney Spears album in 2003 called "In the Zone". The four composers were Cathy Dennis, Christian Karlsson, Henrik Jonback, and Pontus Winnberg. The second part is the fourth movement from "Suite Gothique" by French composer Leon Boellmann in 1895 and is his best known composition.

Another change in mood followed with **Jack in the Box** by Edward Elzear "Zez" Confrey an American composer and performer of novelty piano and jazz music. He is most noted for "Kitten on the Keys" and "Dizzy Fingers".

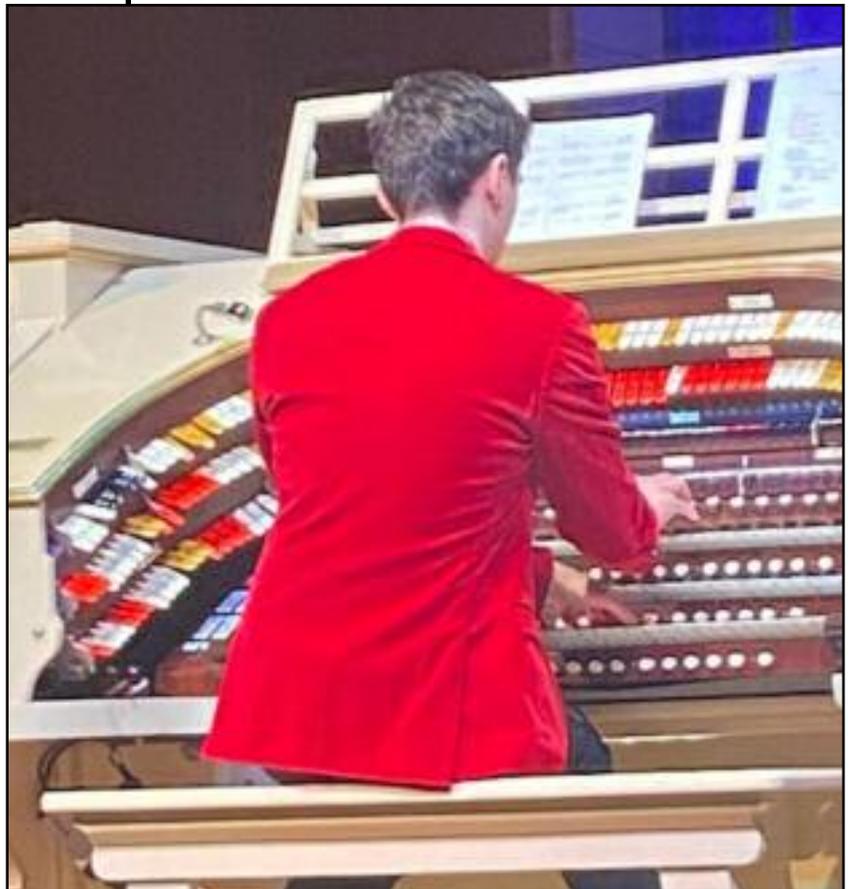
**King of New York** is a song in the Disney movie in 1992 and in the Broadway show in 2012 titled "Newsies". The composer was Alan Menken a song writer, music conductor, director and record producer best known for his scores and songs for films produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios. This one is loosely based on the New York City Newsboys' strike of 1899. A real rocking arrangement.

The next piece, **At The Square**, is an original by Nathan himself and was impressive indeed, almost as if it had come from a future space movie. Well done.

We are entertained next by 5 silent movies from the International Youth Silent Film Festival. It's like reverse engineering the silent movies. First Nathan composes 10 accompaniments – each about 3 minutes long – for non-existent silent movies in different genres. Then a young film producer would create a movie to fit the score genre

he has selected. Nathan performs live to accompany each. Listed below are five past winners. There are many of these out there and you can look on Nathan's site [nathan@avakianmusic.com](mailto:nathan@avakianmusic.com) to get to many of them. I listed them in the following order. Title, (Genre), Producer, and (age)

- 1) Pencil Whipped, (Discovery), Miles Howell, (18)
- 2) Charlie and the Mavericks, (Slapstick), Abigail Wilson, (18)
- 3) Caught in the Shot, (Noir), Kallista Amery and Emilie Hoyne, (17)
- 4) The Western Heist, (Western), Dhilan Bhat, (12)
- 5) Over Skies, (Reflections), Chase Adams, (16)



The closing number this evening was **Theme from Fantasmic!** The original theme composer was Bruce Healey for the musical extravaganza, fireworks and water show at both Disneyland in California and Disney World in Florida. It was a wonderful show Nathan!

**Stay safe,  
Wear your mask,  
Get your vaccine**

## President's Message

Spring has sprung and it is so nice to be outdoors enjoying all of the spring splendors!

First I wanted to say thanks to all of you who made contributions to DTOS following the March concert, which featured Nathan Avakian! Every little bit helps and I wanted you to know how much we appreciated your gifts – no matter the size! THANK YOU!

We are looking forward to our next virtual concert on May 1st featuring Mark Herman, who will be making his fourth appearance on the bench of the Mighty Kimball! I recall Mark's last visit to Dickinson in 2017, and how the audience told me that they could "feel his passion" in his performance. I am sure we are in for a real treat!

Our team at DTOS has been busy setting up our 52nd season (2021-2022). The Artist Selection Committee is putting the finishing touches on the season line-up. We are hopeful that the COVID vaccines will remain plentiful and the COVID Dashboard numbers continue to move in the right direction so that our concert season may be enjoyed LIVE and IN THEATRE! You are going to be pleased with the line-up that we have planned for you. Stay tuned!!

In order for us to be able to have a full concert season, we need to have a fully functioning instrument on which our artists can perform. Our Organ Crew is in desperate need of additional members to assist in keeping the Mighty Kimball in tip-top shape. All levels of experience accepted, including no experience. We need your help! Please spread the word. It's a fascinating opportunity to get to know and better understand the inner-workings of this magnificent mechanical monster!

I will be looking for all of you (virtually) at our May 1 concert! Please stay healthy and well! And I look forward to seeing you "in person" real soon!

David A. Ruth, Ph.D.

Chairman / President

DTOSPres@gmail.com



## NEXT SEASON

We anticipate announcing the dates and artists for the 2021/2022 season in the next issue of the Vox Humana. We hope that there will not be any need for additional postponements.

Additional ticket information will also be announced at that time.

## Any Questions ? by Paul Harris

During intermission at DTOS concerts there was usually a member of the organ crew at the console to answer any questions from those who come forward to view the console. Since live concerts have not been possible for over a year we would still like to respond to your questions about the technical aspects of the Dickinson Kimball. If you have something you have always wondered about the operation of the organ but have not had the opportunity to ask in person, there are several ways to send us your question and we will answer it in future issues of the Vox Humana. The best way is to send your question via email directly to Paul Harris, leader of the DTOS organ crew, at [jopaharris@verizon.net](mailto:jopaharris@verizon.net). Or if you don't have email, post it to the DTOS post office box: PO Box 5094, Wilmington, DE 19808.

Also, the DTOS organ crew needs additional members. For various reasons, the membership of the crew has decreased to just a few workers and we need new volunteers who are interested in learning how to maintain a theatre pipe organ. In particular, we would like to have persons who have knowledge of electronics. But a willingness to learn the necessary skills is all that is required and crew members will train volunteers to learn those skills. If you have interest please contact the crew leader by email at the above address.



## Tickets

- As we have said in previous issues of the Vox Humana, those season tickets you have been holding from the 51st concert season (for concerts that have been postponed or cancelled) WILL be valid for ANY of the concerts in the 52nd season. More information in the next Vox Humana.

- Most of the concert venues are using online ticket sales. DTOS is trying to convert to online sales as well. We hope it might shorten the ticket line in the lobby before each concert.

- Explicit information on ticket sales will be in a future Vox Humana. If you do not have a computer, online sales can be accomplished on the telephone. Of course tickets will be available at the door.



## How Can You Help?

Although many of the activities of DTOS can be performed by outside professionals (such as finances, publicity, newsletter, ticket sales, etc.), that takes money from our resources. But our resources are limited, with no guarantee of future ticket sales to restore them soon.

It would help DTOS if the “professional” jobs could be done by volunteers from the group.

Helping to maintain the organ and to present the concerts makes members feel more involved – more a part of the project – by knowing our help goes beyond buying a ticket. Another benefit is getting to know some interesting people working with you.

Volunteer opportunities exist all through the DTOS organization, calling for a wide range of skills and talents. There are many volunteers already involved in making DTOS work smoothly, but more are needed.

The Dickinson Theatre Organ Society has gained a reputation for excellence over the past half century because of the efforts of our volunteers. With your participation, the music will continue.

Below is a list of openings currently available.

### CONCERT NIGHT

- assist in setting up and clearing the lobby
- ushering
- “the Music Shop”
- assist after-concert reception

### BETWEEN CONCERTS

- assist maintaining data base for mailing and e-mail
- distributing the Vox by bulk mail and e-mail
- liaison with publicity group
- financial
- member of the Board (elected position)

### BETWEEN CONCERTS AND ON CONCERT NIGHT

- ticket orders and sales
- work on organ crew
- work on technical crew (stage, recording, etc.)

If you find something that interests you, send a note or email to get details. The address is

<dtos1@verizon.net>.

## A Survey for Our DTOS Family

It has been quite some time since we’ve been able to gather in-person for live concerts, and we are curious to learn what you like the most/least about our concerts and receptions. To give you some ideas to think about, here are some areas for which we’d like your input.

If you have any additional comments or ideas that may be feasible, please share below. We’d like to incorporate your input as much as we can.

Thanks in advance for sharing your ideas! We miss seeing you and hope we can gather for in-person concerts again with the start of the 52nd season!

Mark your answers to the questions on the back of this page. Add any other comments.

Cut off the bottom half of this page and mail it to

**DTOS Survey**  
**PO Box 4095**  
**Wilmington, DE 19805**

We are also seeking additional volunteers in all areas to make changes possible. If you would like to volunteer and/or know someone who is interested in volunteering with DTOS, please indicate your thoughts and send them to

**Christie Earl at c\_earl6@msn.com** or  
DTOS  
PO Box 5094  
Wilmington, DE 19808

Many thanks to the many DTOS fans who have remained loyal during this trying time. We have been here for 50 season (with only a few interruptions) and we hope to be here for many years to come listening to the music of the wonderful Kimball.

## June Concert will be Virtual

Although the Covid situation seems to be getting a little better, we feel that it would be better to postpone the next “live” concert until the Fall. As a consequence, the June concert with David Peckham and the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra has been postponed until next season.

The Concert Selection Committee is selecting the artist for the virtual concert on June 12. Not just anyone can do a virtual concert. Some artists need the feedback they get from a live audience.

Please send us your e-mail address so that we can communicate with you quickly.

Send your e-mail address to David Ruth. He will be glad to receive it and add it to the database.

**DTOSPres@gmail.com**

## Kimball on YouTube

We hope that you have discovered the YouTube videos of several of our past concerts on our website. There are about eight of our concerts available. Several of those concerts have had up to 18,000 views. The next time you have some time on your hands would be a good time to refresh your memory of those concerts.

Those videos have been the result of a new crew of technicians working for DTOS - the MEDIA crew (my name for them). They consist of Jonathan Buchanan, Brad Shupionski, and Eric Robbins. I hope I didn't miss anybody. This is new technology for most of us and they do a good job with some surprises in every event.

If you are trying to persuade a friend to come and enjoy a concert, viewing one of these videos might be a way of helping convince them that our concert are not some “fuddy-duddy” playing the organ at church.

Help us keep the music playing.

## THE SURVEY

**Introduction** to the concert by Dave Ruth—

- too long,
- too short,
- just the right amount of information
- other?

**--Intermission--**

- too long,
- too short,
- just the right amount of time to socialize/purchase items, etc.

**--Reception** after the concert—would you prefer

- on stage
- front lobby
- other?

**--Time of the concert**

- 7 pm too late?
- Too early?
- Just right?

**--Day of the concert**

- Saturday Afternoon
- Saturday Evening
- Sunday Afternoon
- Friday Evening

**--Online Sales** – would you like to be able to purchase items (DVDs, clothing, etc.) and tickets online via the DTOS website?

- yes
- no

**--I heard about DTOS through --**

- Word of mouth
- Another theatre organ group
- web site
- other

## In Need of Help

For several years, Bill Church and Jon Washburn have donated their time and talent to Dickinson Theatre Organ Society's Music Shop and have collected money at the door for tickets to concerts as well. Unfortunately, they are no longer able to continue with this volunteer position and have asked that new volunteers for the Music Shop be located from within the DTOS family, preferably.

Bill and Jon are very willing to provide training and guidance to the individual/s who would take over the Music Shop (which will be open again when our traditional in-person concert series begins, after COVID-19 precautions are less dire).

Those interested in learning more should reach out to Christie Earl at [c\\_earl6@msn.com](mailto:c_earl6@msn.com) or call at 302-388-4789 (preferably in the late afternoon/early evening).

If volunteers are not secured, DTOS may need to make some structural changes at concerts, for example, deleting the reception following the concerts in order to staff the Music Shop/ticket sales during the events.

If you know of a reliable person with a background that would address our need and who is not currently active with DTOS, please also reach out to [c\\_earl6@msn.com](mailto:c_earl6@msn.com) or call at 302-388-4789.

Thank you in advance for your consideration!

Christie Earl, volunteer coordinator and co-chair of reception committee

The Vox Humana is the official Dickinson Theatre Organ Society newsletter and is published six times per year.

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## DTOS Publications

### CD Recordings

**An Affair To Remember** recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Tony Fenelon. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

**Tribute** recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Ken Double (organ) and Skip Stine (trumpet. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

**Graduation** recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Richard Hills. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

**dave @ dickinson** recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Dave Wickerham. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

**Discovering The Unit Orchestra** - recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Jelani Eddington. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

**Kavalkade** - recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Simon Gledhill. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

**Double Touch** - recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Ken Double. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

**DVD The Magic Is the Sound** - About the DTOS Kimball and its music, with Steven Ball and Tony Fenelon

**The Dickinson Kimball Story**, - an illustrated 52 page booklet. \$10.00 postpaid

## Concert Stereo CDs

Following is a listing of CDs available. For 1982-2008 concert CDs, see Bob Dilworth or send for list. Concert CDs are \$14.00 pp (USA)

### Convention Concerts 2015

CC1 - David Peckham  
CC2 - Dave Wickerham  
CC3 - Hector Olivera  
CC4 - Simon Gledhill/Richard Hills

### 2010/2011

246B Fenelon 247 Ortloff  
248 Smith  
249 Eddington/Gorsuch  
250 Hills 251 Wickerham

### 2011/2012

252 Nordwall 253 Herman  
254 Luce 255 Valliant  
256 Wilson 257 Avakian

### 2012/2013

258 Strony 259 Peckham  
260 Rankin 261 Gledhill  
262 Smith 263 Fenelon

### 2013/2014

264 Wickerham 265 Eddington  
266 Ball 267 Parker  
268 Nagano 269 Gray(\$16)

### 2014/2015

270 Hills 271 Gray  
272 Double 273 Schwandt  
274 Olivera 275 Lavoie &  
CC1 Peckham Minervini  
CC2 Wickerham CC3 Olivera  
CC4 Gledhill/Hills (duet)

### 2015/2016

276 Avakian 277 Eddington  
279 Gibson & Kinnier

### 2016/ 2017

280 Wickerham(\$16)  
282 Dick Smith 283 Ron Rhode  
284 Mark Herman  
285 David Gray (\$16)

### 2017/18

286 Scott Foppiano 287 Brett Valliant  
288 Rosemary Bailey 289 Simon Gledhill  
290 Clark Wilson

### 2018/19

292 Alex Jones 293 Carol Williams  
294 Nathan Avakian 295 Richard Hills  
296 Phil Kelsall 297 Ken Double

### 2019/20

298 Zach Frame 299 Hector Olivera  
300 David Gray  
301 Jelani Eddington / Donnie Rankin

### 2020/21

302 Teddie Gibson 303 Nathan Avakian

## Order by mail

Concert Memory CDs are \$14.00 by mail postpaid

DTOS Music Shop

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Wilmington, DE 19808

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# *Dickinson Theatre Organ Society*

a Chapter of the  
American Theatre Organ Society

*presents*

*Mark  
Herman*

**Virtual Concert**

**Saturday, May 1, 2021**

**at 7:00pm**



**The Dickinson Theatre**

**1801 Milltown Road**

**Wilmington, DE 19808-4011**